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1. Mr S. J. ...

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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the Year

1959

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

A N N U A L R E P O R T

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

1959

by

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

F. Le V. FRIEND, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent

MUNICIPAL AND HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1959.

Alderman J. Vaughan (Chairman)

His Worship The Mayor, (Councillor J.W. Richardson)

Alderman Miss E.I. Padwick

Alderman E.J. Slinn

Councillor I.E. Baker

Councillor J. Jennings

Councillor B.E. Mulhall

Councillor Barrington Myers

Councillor A.C. Tarnow

Councillor Miss M. Vernon

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch, Hants.

Telephone No. Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. Le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. Cartridge, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

A.F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1959.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I submit for your information and consideration my thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough of Christchurch lies on the Coast in the south-west corner of Hampshire at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Stour. It is built on a subsoil of gravel and sand and by its situation is blessed with a pleasantly equable climate. It is an ancient town which however has developed to a remarkable degree since the war and is continuing to do so, particularly at its eastern end. There has been an increase in population of 49% since 1945, most of which has been by immigration.

The aircraft industry is the major source of employment, and there are two large Ministry of Supply Establishments and a varied selection of light industry. There is no industrial smoke problem.

RAINFALL FOR 1959:

| | <u>Ins.</u> | | <u>Ins.</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| January | 2.78 | July | 2.89 |
| February | .34 | August | 1.36 |
| March | 2.87 | September | .14 |
| April | 1.94 | October | 3.32 |
| May | .77 | November | 3.30 |
| June | 1.1 | December | 6.26 |
| <u>TOTAL:</u> 27.07 inches | | | |

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4813 acres (Census 1951)
Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1959:
24,890

Number of inhabited houses: 8281.
 Rateable value: 31.3.59: £383,621.
 Sum represented by a penny rate: £1,502.8.10d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1959 (as supplied by the Registrar-
 General.)

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u> | <u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u> |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|

LIVE BIRTHS:

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Total | 347 | 182 | 165 |
| Legitimate | 327 | 174 | 153 |
| Illegitimate | 20 | 8 | 12 |

LIVE BIRTH RATE: (comparability factor 1.00)

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|------|
| per 1,000 population | 13.94 | 16.5 |
|----------------------|-------|------|

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| per cent of total live births | 5.8% |
|-------------------------------|------|

STILL BIRTHS:

| | | | |
|--------------|----|---|---|
| Total | 11 | 4 | 7 |
| Legitimate | 10 | 4 | 6 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |

STILL BIRTH RATE:

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| per 1,000 total (live and still) births | 30.7 | 20.7 |
|---|------|------|

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 358.

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths under one year of age

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Total | 6 | 6 | - |
| Legitimate | 5 | 5 | - |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - |

Deaths under 4 weeks of age

| | | | |
|--------------|---|---|---|
| Total | 4 | 4 | - |
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 | - |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - |

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u> | <u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <u>Deaths under 1 week of age</u> | | | | | |
| Total | 4 | 4 | - | | |
| Legitimate | 3 | 3 | - | | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | - | | |

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|------|------|
| per 1,000 live births - Total | 17.3 | 22.0 |
| per 1,000 live births - Legitimate | 15.3 | |
| per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate | 50.0 | |

NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 4 weeks)

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| per 1,000 live births | 11.5 | 15.8 |
|-----------------------|------|------|

EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 1 week)

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| per 1,000 live births | 11.5 |
|-----------------------|------|

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week
combined)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| per 1,000 total live & still births | 41.9 |
|-------------------------------------|------|

MATERNAL DEATHS: (Including abortion) 1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------|
| per 1,000 total (live & still) births | 2.8 | 0.38 |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------|

DEATHS: 401 193 208

DEATH RATE: (comparability factor 0.81)

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| per 1,000 population | 16.1 | 11.6 |
| after application of comparability factor | 13.0 | |

SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death rate per 1,000 population

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------|------|
| Tuberculosis | 0.08 | 0.09 |
| Pneumonia | 0.72 | 0.61 |
| Influenza | 0.16 | 0.18 |
| Cancer (lung and bronchus) ... | 0.56 | 0.46 |
| Cancer (all causes) | 3.49 | 2.14 |

CAUSES OF DEATH:

| | Males | Females |
|---|-------|---------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory | 2 | - |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other | - | - |
| 3. Syphilitic disease | - | - |
| 4. Diphtheria | - | - |
| 5. Whooping Cough | - | - |
| 6. Meningococcal infection | - | - |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | - | - |
| 8. Measles | - | - |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic diseases | 1 | - |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... | 5 | 11 |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 13 | 1 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 4 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus | - | 1 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 26 | 26 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | 1 | 2 |
| 16. Diabetes | 2 | 1 |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | 21 | 35 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina | 39 | 29 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease ... | 2 | 1 |
| 20. Other heart disease | 21 | 38 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease | 4 | 11 |
| 22. Influenza | 2 | 2 |
| 23. Pneumonia | 7 | 11 |
| 24. Bronchitis | 5 | 2 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | 1 | 4 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... | 2 | - |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | - | 1 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | - | - |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | 4 | - |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... | - | 1 |
| 31. Congenital malformations | 4 | - |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 16 | 22 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | 6 | 1 |
| 34. All other accidents | 7 | 3 |
| 35. Suicide | 2 | 1 |
| 36. Homicide and operations of war ... | - | - |
| TOTAL (All causes) | 193 | 208 |

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

| Year | Population | Borough of Christchurch | | | England and Wales | | |
|------|------------|-------------------------|------|-------|-------------------|------|------|
| | | I.M.R. | B.R. | D.R. | I,M.R. | B.R. | D.R. |
| 1929 | 8,728 | 49.0 | 18.6 | 11.1 | 74 | 16.3 | 13.4 |
| 1932 | 11,250 | 62.5 | 17.0 | 11.3 | 65 | 15.3 | 12.0 |
| 1936 | 13,080 | 53.1 | 15.8 | 12.2 | 59 | 14.8 | 12.1 |
| 1940 | 15,330 | 24.7 | 13.1 | 12.8 | 55 | 14.6 | 14.3 |
| 1944 | 14,810 | 30.0 | 22.3 | 14.2 | 46 | 17.6 | 11.6 |
| 1948 | 19,190 | 16.0 | 16.1 | 11.25 | 34 | 17.9 | 10.8 |
| 1952 | 21,290 | 21.9 | 14.9 | 11.03 | 27.6 | 15.3 | 11.3 |
| 1955 | 22,620 | 27.6 | 12.8 | 13.3 | 24.9 | 15.0 | 11.7 |
| 1956 | 23,140 | 22.6 | 13.4 | 13.3 | 23.8 | 15.7 | 11.7 |
| 1957 | 23,790 | 9.0 | 14.0 | 12.9 | 23.0 | 16.1 | 11.5 |
| 1958 | 24,300 | 14.6 | 14.0 | 14.1 | 22.5 | 16.4 | 11.7 |
| 1959 | 24,890 | 17.3 | 13.9 | 16.1 | 22.0 | 16.5 | 11.6 |

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

Apart from Measles the incidence of notifiable disease was remarkably low.

This should have been a "Measles year" but, although a considerable number of cases occurred in the Highcliffe Area, the western part of the town was largely free of the infection.

Two cases of poliomyelitis occurred, the first in the Borough since 1956. None the less the hot dry summer was one in which it would have been reasonable to expect a heavy incidence of poliomyelitis, and it is notable that neither child had been vaccinated against the disease. The first case was a child of four who developed respiratory paralysis, and the other a child of 9 months who had one leg affected. Each is left with residual paralysis.

No food poisoning was notified.

| Disease | Number notified |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 10 |
| Measles | 151 |
| Poliomyelitis-Paralytic ... | 2 |
| Dysentery | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 12 |
| Erysipelas | 2 |

TUBERCULOSIS:

| | <u>Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Non-Pulmonary</u> | | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | |
| No. on Register at 31.12.59 | 140 | 99 | 13 | 20 | 272 |
| No. of new notifications | 3 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| Transfers from other areas | 6 | 3 | - | 1 | 10 |
| Deaths | 2 | - | - | - | 2 |

LUNG CANCER:

Fourteen deaths occurred from lung cancer. This is the highest total ever recorded in one year from Christchurch, though 81 deaths from this cause have occurred in the Borough in the past ten years. The increase is in keeping with the national trend.

In April 1959, Lord Cohen of Birkenhead, President of the Royal Society of Health said:- "There is the strongest statistical evidence to show that the more cigarettes a man smokes the more liable he is to develop cancer of the lung, though other factors certainly play a part. Should not the prudent man accept this and act upon it?"

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

1. Laboratory Facilities.

The Borough is very well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King.

The following list of specimens from the area, examined at the laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Nose and Throat | 13 |
| Sputa | 5 |
| Faeces and Urine | 64 |
| Ice Cream | 240 |
| Water | 9 |
| Food | 2 |
| Other Sanitary | 44 |
| Virus isolation | 2 |

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2. Hospitals

Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic. A progressive scheme of modernisation is in force.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at Alderney Hospital, Poole.

3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic continues to be held at the Millhams Street Health Centre. The Chest Physician, Dr. Stuart Robertson, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Dr. Robertson is also Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic i.e. the Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners is widely representative and much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of funds and in personal service to patients.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

The Mass Radiography Unit visited a number of centres in the Borough during the year, and in addition, the small 100 m.m. Odelca Unit paid a weekly visit to the Pit Site for the convenience of family doctors. The small unit also

visited establishments where the numbers were too small to justify a visit from the major Unit.

The following is a summary of the numbers x-rayed provided by the courtesy of Dr. Robertson.

| Site | Mass Radiography Unit | | | | Total |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------|----------------|-----|-------|
| | Adults | | Schoolchildren | | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | |
| Fairmile Hotel | 136 | 213 | 11 | 9 | 369 |
| Somerford | 159 | 338 | 32 | 48 | 577 |
| Fountain Corner | 514 | 758 | 39 | 57 | 1368 |
| Highcliffe | 224 | 367 | 32 | 23 | 646 |
| S.R.D.E. | 528 | 68 | - | - | 596 |
| M.E.X.E. | 505 | 32 | - | - | 537 |
| | 2066 | 1776 | 114 | 137 | 4093 |

| <u>Site</u> | <u>100 m.m. Unit</u> | | | | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| | <u>Adults</u> | | <u>Schoolchildren</u> | | |
| | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | <u>M.</u> | <u>F.</u> | |
| Christchurch (G.P. Sessions) | 173 | 189 | 11 | 8 | 381 |
| Christchurch Hospital | 46 | 123 | - | - | 169 |
| Scintillex | 22 | 102 | - | - | 124 |
| | 241 | 414 | 11 | 8 | 674 |

SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance Service in the area is run from a Main

Station at "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington. There is a sub-station at Christchurch, and further sub-stations at Ringwood and New Milton, but in order that calls can be properly correlated, all requests for transport have to be made to the Main Station - Telephone No. Lymington 2331.

2. Nursing Services.

The District and Midwifery Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:

| <u>District served</u> | <u>Name and address</u> | <u>Service</u> |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Christchurch | Mrs. G.E. Cox, 48, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1160 | District Midwife |
| (Part) | Mrs. Gutheridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 729 | District Nurse |
| (Part) | Miss D.H. Powell, 83, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1967 | District Nurse |
| (Part) | Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 2225 | District Nurse |
| Somerford | Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3426. | District Midwife |
| (Part) | Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1204 | District Nurse Midwife |
| Mudford Purewell | Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 1204 | District Nurse Midwife |

| <u>District served</u> | <u>Name and address</u> | <u>Service</u> |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Highcliffe (Part) | Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3426 | District Midwife |
| (Part) | Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel: Highcliffe 3282. | District Nurse Midwife |

HEALTH VISITORS:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Christchurch and Purewell | Mrs. M.A. Tate, 3, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne. Tel: Bournemouth 47407. |
| Somerford and Mudeford | Miss E.M. Gibbs, 4, Sandy Lane, Christchurch. Tel: Christchurch 2015. |
| Highcliffe | Mrs. P.M. Mogridge, Laurel Yew Cottage, Cuckoo Hill, Bransgore. Tel: Bransgore 464 |

3. Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Miss M.P. Stevens, Druitt Buildings, Christchurch. Telephone: Christchurch 900

4. Child Welfare Clinics.

| <u>Child Welfare Centre</u> | <u>Place.</u> | <u>Time.</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Christchurch | County Council, Health Centre, Millhams Street. | Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. |
| Somerford | St. Mary's Church Hall | First and Third Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m. |
| Highcliffe | St. Mark's Hall | First and Third Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m. |

5. School Health Service.

School Medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor ailment and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Centre.

6. Smallpox Vaccination.

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at Child Welfare Clinics. The records are maintained by the County Medical Officer. Family doctors may, and normally do, charge for certificates of vaccination.

228 primary vaccinations and 178 re-vaccinations were reported. 52.7% of babies under 12 months were vaccinated. This is a considerable reduction from last year and compares most unfavourably with the County average of 65.6%.

7. Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Clinics and schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

Contrary to expectation, in view of the intensive polio vaccination campaign, there was a rise in the number of primary immunisations. There was a slight fall in the number of refresher doses, the majority of which are given at special school sessions. The immunisation rate remains reasonably satisfactory.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Immunisations completed under 5 years of age | 227 |
| Immunisations completed over 5 years of age | 50 |
| | ----- |
| | 277 |
| | ----- |
| Refresher doses | 423 |
| Immunisation against Whooping Cough alone | 30 |
| Proportion of children born in previous 12 months | |
| immunised | 49% |

Number of children in the District on 31st December, 1959, who have completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1945 and 31st December, 1959

| Age on 31.12.59 (i.e. born in year) | Under 1 1959 | 1-4 1955-58 | 5-9 1950-54 | 10-14 1945-49 | Under 15 Total |
|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| A. Number of children who have completed course (prim- ary or booster) in the period 1955-1959 | 58 | 785 | 1220 | 1007 | 3070 |
| B. Number of children who have completed course (prim- ary or booster) in the period 1945-1954 | - | - | 385 | 901 | 1286 |

8. Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors, either at their surgeries or at special sessions at the Millhams Street Health Centre. Treatment is also given by Assistant County Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics and at special sessions. Special sessions were for example held at Senior Schools, local factories, a multiple store and the local youth club.

Although poliomyelitis vaccination was available to all born after 1st January, 1933, the response from teenagers and above was exceedingly poor in the early months of the year. Following the death of a well known footballer, the position changed abruptly, and for a time it was difficult to cope with the demand. However, all requests were met, and much credit is due to general practitioners and County staff.

1959.

Number who received primary course of two doses 3788
Number who received third doses 2360

SCHOOLS:

The Secondary Schools remain full and the annual intake still exceeds the output, in part owing to the post war "bulge" but also as the result of the continuing tendency for an increasing number of children to remain for a full five years. At Somerford, for example, the proportion in 1958 proposing to remain for five years was 40%, this year it has risen to 50%. Four new classrooms were completed at Twynham School and five at Somerford Secondary, but of these latter, two are in use by overflow classes from Somerford Junior. In turn the new Somerford Infant School has overflowed into Somerford Junior where they occupy two classrooms. Two classrooms have had to be retained at Sandhills for use by Somerford Junior.

Numbers have fallen at the Clarendon Road and Priory Schools.

The position at Highcliffe remains congested and the new school under construction at Wolhayes is eagerly awaited.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by rapid and slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the company has developed a source of supply from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and may, at time of need, supplement the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 8379 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below.

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received on 24.6.59
from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical Results in parts per million:

Appearance: Bright with a few particles.
Turbidity: Less than 3.
Colour: 5. Odour: Nil.
pH: 7.7. Free Carbon Dioxide: 7.
Electric Conductivity: 430. Dissolved Solids dried
at 180°C: 290.
Chlorine present as Chloride: 16 Alkalinity as Calcium
Carbonate: 195.
Hardness: Total 225. Carbonate 195. Non-
carbonate 30.
Nitrate Nitrogen: 2.2. Nitrite Nitrogen: approx. 0.01.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.025. Oxygen absorbed: 0.60.
Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.017. Residual Chlorine: 0.03.
Metals: Absent.

Bacteriological Results.

| | (1 day at 37°C. | 2 days at 37°C. | 3 days at 20-22°C. |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Number of colonies developing on Agar | (4 per ml. | 5 per ml. | 5 per ml. |
| | <u>Present in</u> | <u>Absent from</u> | <u>Probable number</u> |
| Presumptive Coliform reaction | - ml. | 100 ml. | 0 per 100 ml. |
| Bact. coli. (Type 1) | - ml. | 100 ml. | 0 per 100 ml. |
| Cl. welchii reaction | - ml. | 100 ml. | |

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is moderately hard in character and it contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are satisfactory results indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

SEWERAGE:

Work on the new sewage disposal works in Stony Lane progressed steadily throughout the year and it is confidently anticipated that they will come into operation in the early autumn of 1960. The use of the several overflows into our streams, necessitated by our present overloaded system, will then cease.

Provision has been made for the drainage of the adjoining Burton and Winkton areas into the new works at a later date when a scheme of sewerage has been installed.

The existing Christchurch system was unchanged and the dry summer helped to reduce the possibility of nuisance. Even the very wet spell at the latter end of the year passed without serious trouble.

HIGHCLIFFE BEACH:

Two sets of chemical closets were installed during the season for night time use by holiday makers in sleeping huts, with a view to reducing the possibility of fouling of the cliff face. No complaint of nuisance was made to the Health Department.

The disposal of sullage water is a real problem on a site such as this. Any system of drains is likely to be disrupted by the constant yearly movement of the cliff. However a series of sullage water disposal points leading to steel pipes is being installed at considerable expense and it is hoped they will withstand the movement, at least for a time.

Measures can now be taken to discourage hut occupiers from disposing of sullage water on the surface of the ground with resultant nuisance.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

The Public Health Inspectors continue to pay regular attention to food premises with special reference to the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The general standards of our food premises are high and co-operation with food traders remains excellent.

New and attractive layouts are being installed in many shops and there is a steady increase in the number of self-service stores where almost all the merchandise is pre-packed. The public is becoming increasingly hygiene conscious and this is salutary; the most attractive shops are the most patronised.

One successful prosecution was undertaken in respect of a mouldy pie. The firm pleaded guilty and a fine was imposed.

HOUSING:

262 private houses were built during the year in comparison with 243 in the previous year. 90 council flats were completed whereas in the previous year no council accommodation was constructed. As a result it was possible to house almost all the families from Holmsley, leaving only four who are soon to be accommodated.

The improvement mentioned last year in certain difficult families was fully maintained and it has been possible to cease the supervision of many who formerly caused much anxiety. A very few remain under observation.

The following details relating to housing allocation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by Mr. A.G. Head.

Number of families housed during the year:

| | |
|--|-------|
| In temporary accommodation at Holmsley | 4 |
| In permanent accommodation | 147 |
| | ----- |
| TOTAL | 151 |
| | ----- |

At the end of the year four families were temporarily housed at Holmsley and comprised the following:-

| <u>No. in family</u> | <u>No. of families</u> | <u>Total personnel</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3 | 3 | 9 |
| 4 | 1 | 4 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 4 | 13 |
| | ----- | ----- |

Note:

At the date of preparation of this report, however, only one family remains to be re-housed by the Town Council, and will be housed following the closing of the Holmsley School.

There were 233 applicants on the housing list, comprised as follows:-

| <u>No. in family</u> | <u>No. of applicants</u> | <u>Total personnel</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 43 | 43 |
| 2 | 84 | 168 |
| 3 | 65 | 195 |
| 4 | 22 | 88 |
| 5 | 13 | 65 |
| 6 | 6 | 36 |
| | ----- | ----- |
| | 233 | 595 |
| | ----- | ----- |

The applicants for Old Persons Dwellings are included in the above figures.

No families were housed in requisitioned premises.

SUMMARY

| | <u>1951</u> | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1959</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Applicants on general list | 916 | 242 | 234 | 233 |
| Families at Holmsley | 193 | 58 | 54 | 4 |
| Families in requisitioned properties | 89 | 13 | 10 | - |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| | 1198 | 313 | 298 | 237 |
| | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |

PROBLEM FAMILIES MEETINGS:

Two meetings of voluntary workers and officials concerned with difficult families were held under my Chairmanship. In general it was considered that the majority of the families formerly under supervision had shown marked improvement and in many cases further supervision was felt to be unnecessary. The meetings continue to be useful through the pooling of information and avoidance of duplication of visiting, but the improved conditions and in particular the virtual closure of Holmsley, have made it possible to meet less frequently.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47:

One old woman was dealt with under the above Act.

She was aged 85, lived alone and had long been known to the Welfare Department. She was extremely difficult and would not accept assistance either from relatives or from the Home Help Service. She refused to enter an Old People's Home. Her house became exceedingly dirty and she eventually became ill and unable to leave her bed. She still refused to enter hospital though there was no one to look after her and she was finally committed to hospital under a Magistrate's Order. A further order was obtained extending her stay in hospital for three months.

Two other old women, sisters living on their own, were considered for action and were suitable cases. However, it proved possible, after many visits and much persuasion, to admit them to a nursing home.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The general incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low and indeed less Measles occurred than might reasonably have been expected.

The estimated population increased by 590, yet deaths exceeded births by 54. The difference is accounted for by immigration.

The birth rate fell slightly but the number of illegitimate births nearly doubled.

The infant mortality rate rose slightly but was still considerably lower than the post war average.

The crude death rate again increased and even the corrected figure was higher than the national average.

The number of deaths from respiratory cancer again rose.

Work on the new Sewage Disposal Works proceeded steadily.

I wish again to express my gratitude to the Mayor and Members of the Council for their continued interest and encouragement, my colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and Mr. Friend and his staff for their industry and loyal co-operation.

D.J.N. McNAB.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1960.

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1959 .

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my nineteenth Annual Report covering the work of the department during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

As in former years, the Table dealing with Refuse Collection and Disposal costs covers the period 1st April, 1959 to 31st March, 1960.

Table 1, which is a summary of inspections made by your Inspectors, shows that much attention has been given to drainage works; rodent control; repair of older properties, the preparation and distribution of food and many other matters coming within the province of the department.

The recruitment of staff for refuse collection has always proved difficult. The position is now much worse, and all efforts to recruit labour have been unsuccessful.

Despite the fine and very dry weather experienced last year, the sickness rate amongst the refuse collecting staff was higher than the previous year, 16.4 days as against 15.6. The average for previous years was 5.9.

There has been a further small increase in the population, the figure at 30th June, 1959 being 24,890, an increase of 590. The summer population is, of course, considerably larger.

Estates in course of development in various parts of the borough have resulted in an increase of 352 in the number of properties from which refuse has to be collected.

Mrs. V. Morgan, a clerk in my department, resigned in January and was replaced by Mrs. E. Osment, who commenced her duties in February.

The main items of interest are set out under their respective headings.

HOUSING REPAIRS:

The repair of older properties is always somewhat of a problem. It is difficult to assess the point at which the

cost of repairs outweigh the value of the property; the value of a vacant property being twice or thrice that of one that is occupied by a protected tenant.

The nature and extent of repairs that can be demanded by the department are to a degree governed by the Housing and Public Health Acts. Therefore, though desirable, but not necessarily essential, some work has to be left to the goodwill of the owner.

On the whole, the department receives the co-operation of owners. There are times, however, when the cost of repairs is beyond the means of the owner and prove a real hardship. Such cases give rise to prolonged negotiations and occasionally to a recommendation that the Council should acquire the properties and recondition them. This was done in respect of 15 properties.

At the request of the department, repairs varying from minor works to complete reconditioning, were made to 38 properties. 37 were dealt with informally. 5 houses were demolished and a closing order made in respect of one property.

RENT ACT 1957:

This Act, the object of which is to permit an increase in the rent of properties, subject to certain conditions, has not proved to be the problem to the department which it was anticipated it would be. This may be because tenants are reaching agreement with their landlords. On the other hand, it could well be due to the dislike of tenants to be at cross purposes with the owners.

I like to think that the former is the case, and this theory is supported by the external appearance of many houses which have been redecorated for the first time in many years.

The demand for Certificates of Disrepair has again been very limited, only 5 applications having been received.

Since the introduction of the scheme, there have been 32 applications for certificates of which 14 have been granted. 3 properties were reconditioned immediately on service of Notice of Proposal to issue a Certificate, and undertakings to remedy defects accepted in 14 cases.

Of the 14 Certificates of Disrepair issued, 8 had been cancelled at the end of the year.

FOOD PREMISES:

With few exceptions, the food premises in your area comply with the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The exceptions are lock-up shops in which it has been found impossible to provide drainage to take the discharge from sinks or fixed wash basins.

Self-service and pre-packed foods are becoming more and more popular. It has also been observed that many more shops make use of refrigerated display cabinets.

There is no doubt that there is keen competition between traders to display their goods to the best advantage. This automatically leads to improved storage and handling, a trend which I would like to see maintained.

Other than hotels and clubs, there are 242 food premises, made up as follows:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Grocer | 69 |
| Greengrocer and Fruiterer | 19 |
| Baker and Confectioner | 11 |
| Sweets | 35 |
| Fishmonger and Fryer | 12 |
| Butcher | 17 |
| Cafe and Restaurant | 41 |
| Works and School Canteens | 16 |
| Licensed Premises (Hotels and Clubs) ... | 22 |

212 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act. They are as follows:-

- 154 are registered for the sale of ice cream
- 3 are registered for the storage of ice cream
- 42 are registered for the preparation of sausages, cooked meats and pickled meats
- 1 is registered for the manufacture of sausages and cooked and preserved meats.
- 12 are registered for the preparation of fish by any process of cooking
- 28 of the premises registered for the purpose have discontinued the sale of ice cream

MILK SUPPLY:

Other than an increase in the number of persons retailing milk, the position is much the same as in the previous year, all milk retailed in the borough being bottled

in establishments outside your district. As the establishments are supervised by the local authorities concerned, and as samples of milk are taken at source, sampling has not been considered necessary at this end.

Licences issued under the Milk(Special Designation) (Raw Milk) and (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, and dairies and persons registered under the Milk Regulations are as follows:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of distributors of milk | 69 |
| Number of dairies on register | 3 |
| Dealers licensed to use the designation | |
| Tuberculin Tested Milk | 17 |
| Dealers licensed to use the designation | |
| Pasteurised Milk | 67 |
| Dealers licensed to use the designation | |
| Sterilised Milk | 9 |
| Supplementary licences issued for Tuberculin | |
| Tested Milk | 4 |
| Supplementary licences issued for Pasteurised Milk | 5 |
| Supplementary licences issued for Sterilised Milk | 1 |

ICE CREAM:

Large quantities of ice cream are consumed each day, and there is no doubt that the exceptionally fine weather experienced over a long period last year resulted in a large increase in sales of this article of diet.

As is well known, this commodity is particularly susceptible to contamination, and it is therefore essential that handling should be reduced to the minimum, and this is best done by pre-packing at the factory. The sale of bulk ice cream is restricted to a few hotels and restaurants where it is served as a "sweet". All other ice cream sold in Christchurch is pre-packed either in blocks or tubs.

A number of itinerant vendors come into the district from time to time. It is difficult to check on these people as their times and days are irregular. Where possible to do so, inspection has revealed that the vehicles were satisfactory and the ice cream wrapped.

240 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination with the following results:-

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Grade 1 | 225 |
| Grade 2 | 12 |
| Grade 3 | 2 |
| Grade 4 | 1 |

FOOD INSPECTION:

The cordial relationship between the traders and the department makes unnecessary the seizure of unsound food as traders immediately consult your Inspectors if the quality of any article in their possession is in doubt.

Not only does this facilitate the work of the department, but it also ensures, as far as is humanly possible, that all doubtful foods are withdrawn from circulation.

Apart from meat, all unsound food is disposed of in the tip.

Food voluntarily surrendered during the year:-

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 231 | tins of meat |
| 436 | tins of fruit |
| 36 | tins of fish |
| 131 | tins of vegetables |
| 278 | lbs of meat |
| 14 | lbs of bream |
| 5 | tins of jam and marmalade |
| 9 | tins of soup |
| 3 | jars of cream |
| 11 | tins of evaporated milk |
| 3 | tins of creamed rice |
| 3 | lbs desiccated coconut |
| 42 | jars of mixed pickles |
| 11 | cartons of biscuits |

SAMPLING - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT:

I am indebted to Mr. J.S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer, for details of samples taken in the Borough during the year. His report is reproduced hereunder:-

During the year ended the 31st March, 1960, 98 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in the Borough of Christchurch. The number included 82 samples of milk - 18 of these being Channel Islands - and 16 other articles of various foods and drugs. It is gratifying to be able to report that all the samples procured during the year were satisfactory.

The number of samples of articles other than milk was lower than during the previous year, but it will doubtless be appreciated that many products sold within the Borough are subjected to checks in other areas, and unnecessary

duplication in this respect is avoided.

Mention should perhaps also be made of the fact that during visits to various premises attention was given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act insofar as they relate to the marking of ingredients and the labelling of the products to which they apply.

DRAINAGE:

The quite extensive development in several parts of the borough gives rise to much drainage work, all of which has to be carefully supervised and tested if subsoil water is to be excluded. This work resulted in your Inspector's making 2,623 visits, an increase of 284 over the previous year.

Absence or insufficient depth of sewers in some parts of the district result in some properties having to be drained to cesspools or septic tanks. The number thus drained and properties with bucket latrines are as under:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Draining to Septic Tanks | 91 |
| Draining to Cesspools | 62 |
| Buckets | 40 |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES:

As is to be expected in such an attractive area as Christchurch, many thousands of visitors make use of the available accommodation on the several sites in the borough. Due to lack of hotel accommodation and perhaps more to the absence of restrictions, more and more people are taking caravan holidays, and it is safe to assume that from Whitsun to the end of the season, all available accommodation on the 13 licensed sites is taken up.

Many of these sites are quite attractive and are all provided with modern conveniences. It can be said that they are well maintained and are not a source of concern to the department.

In addition to holiday use, some of the sites are permanently occupied, 171 families being in residence at the end of the year.

CLEAN AIR ACT:

As implied by the title, the object of this Act and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958 is the maintenance of a clean atmosphere.

As in many other matters, Christchurch is particularly favoured in this respect in that little or no black smoke is produced from the chimneys of factories or private dwellings.

One occasionally receives a complaint of smoke emission. On investigation it is found that the colour of the smoke complained of is not such as to warrant action being taken.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT:

There are two premises registered under this Act. Your Inspectors visit the premises from time to time to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT:

There has been no change in the number of persons licensed to keep a Pet Shop in accordance with the terms of Section 1 of the Act, the number remaining at three. All premises comply with the conditions imposed by the local authority in co-operation with the R.S.P.C.A.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

(a) Refuse Collection.

The collection of refuse is an essential part of the public health services operated by the local authority. To be effective, the service must be regular and preferably at weekly intervals.

A further increase in the population and the construction of upwards of three hundred and fifty new dwellings during the year have added to the difficulties previously experienced in maintaining a weekly collection. This is particularly so during the summer period when the thirteen caravan sites and four beaches are in full use. Because of these difficulties your refuse collectors had to work overtime over quite a long period.

The use of skeps into which the contents of household

bins are transferred halves the distance which the men would otherwise have to cover if the bins had to be brought to the vehicle and returned after emptying. This enables them to deal with a considerably larger number of properties and is an important factor in the maintenance of a weekly collection.

I have previously drawn attention to the change in the constituents of refuse and to the effect this has on the cost of the service. In pre-war years refuse had a high ash content. Now, chiefly because of the high cost of fuel and the introduction of other means of heating, little or no ash is present and the problem is now one of bulk rather than weight and is reflected in the quite large increase in the number of journeys to the disposal point.

There is no doubt that this trend will be maintained and steps will have to be taken to increase the capacity of some of the vehicles now in use. This can be done by means of compression rams which, I understand, could be fitted to the two Fore and Aft tippers at present in use. Nothing can be done to increase the capacity of side loaders.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Quite a large area of marshland has been reclaimed by means of controlled tipping, all refuse collected in your area being disposed of in this manner. Apart from being cheap and bringing into use otherwise waste land, this method ensures that the material is deposited with the minimum of nuisance. Consolidation of the tip by means of the Bulloader reduces the risk of fly, rat and cricket infestation.

The greater part of the refuse was deposited on land at Stanpit Marsh. Late in the year, November to be precise, filling in of the old river loop at Stour Way was commenced. Unfortunately, because of heavy rainfall the river overflowed its banks early in December and this scheme had to be abandoned until conditions improved late in March of this year. Though not without its problems due to fluctuation in the level of the river and to the development of hydrogen sulphide, which invariably occurs when refuse is tipped in water, the scheme is progressing satisfactorily. Because of the depth of the old river bed, tipping is being carried out in two layers. This permits the first layer to consolidate and reduces the risk of future unevenness of the finished surface.

The spreading compacting and covering of the refuse is done by means of the Bulloader, a total of 3,449 loads of refuse and 904 loads of road sweepings, builders' rubble and other rubbish having been dealt with during the year.

(c) Staff.

As stated in the opening paragraphs of this report, the recruitment of staff for this class of work is now at a standstill and two vacancies have remained unfilled for some time.

In order to maintain a regular service, a considerable amount of overtime has had to be worked, 1,353 hours this year as against 837 for the previous year. The position will be even worse next year when the 42 hour week and extra holidays come into force. Some members of the staff have stated that they are no longer prepared to work overtime over long periods. Should they adhere to this decision and should it still be impossible to recruit staff, a less frequent service may have to be introduced.

The total staff employed on the collection and disposal of refuse and the sorting and baling of waste paper is now 19, one less than last year, and made up as follows:-

Foreman (driving most of the time); 4 drivers;
11 collectors; 1 salvage packer; 1 bulldozer
driver and 1 tip attendant.

(d) Transport.

As will be seen by reference to the Table below, some of the vehicles under my control have been in service for very many years and have reached the stage where the cost of maintaining them is out of proportion to the value of the vehicles. I refer in particular to the Bedford Side Loader which is now in its eighteenth year and to the Morris which is 21 years old. Both these vehicles should be replaced, and it is suggested that such replacements should consist of (1) a Fore and Aft Tipper similar to those already in service, but fitted with some means of compressing refuse to increase carrying capacity; (2) a dual purpose lorry capable of being used for the collection of bulky articles and other material which cannot be placed in a covered vehicle.

Both these machines should be fitted with diesel engines a form of propulsion which has proved highly satisfactory in the case of the two lorries purchased in 1956. These two lorries have been in daily use for almost four years, have been free of trouble, and their comparatively low fuel consumption has been maintained. Their combined mileage for the year is 13,747, and fuel consumption 1,401 gallons, an average of 9.81 miles per gallon against 4.55 for the smaller petrol

driven lorry which had a mileage of 4,580 and fuel consumption of 962 gallons.

The vehicles under my control are:-

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 2 Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers | 4 years old |
| 1 Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loader | 9 years old |
| 1 Dennis Side Loader | 13 years old |
| 1 Bedford Side Loader | 17 years old |
| 1 Morris Side Loader | 21 years old |
| 1 Bristol Angledozer | 10 years old |
| 1 Howard Bulloader | 4 years old |

(e) COSTS:

COST STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1959/60 AS
SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

| Item | Particulars | Collection | Disposal | Totals | Percentage of total gross expenditure |
|------|---|------------|----------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | £ | £ | £ | % |
| | <u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> | | | | |
| 1 | GROSS EXPENDITURE | | | | |
| | (i) Labour | 5891 | 1880 | 7771 | 44.05 |
| | (ii) Transport | 6325 | 2070 | 8395 | 47.59 |
| | (iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings | 464 | 749 | 1213 | 6.88 |
| | (iv) Other items | --- | 262 | 262 | 1.48 |
| | (v) Total gross expenditure | 12,680 | 4,961 | 17,641 | 100 |
| 2 | GROSS INCOME | 315 | 1,428 | 1,743 | - |
| 3 | NET COST | 12,365 | 3,533 | 15,898 | - |
| 4 | Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) | | | | |
| | <u>UNIT COSTS</u> | | | | |
| | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | |
| 5 | Gross cost per ton, labour only | 16. 7 | 4. 3 | 20. 10 | |
| 6 | Gross cost per ton, transport only | 17. 10 | 4. 8 | 22. 6 | |
| 7 | Net cost (all expenditure) per ton | 34. 11 | 8. 0 | 42. 11 | |
| | | £ | £ | £ | |
| 8 | Net cost per 1,000 population | 497 | 142 | 639 | |
| 9 | Net cost per 1,000 premises | 1396 | 399 | 1795 | |

SALVAGE:

As is to be expected, when prices are high many persons who would not otherwise be interested enter the market and collect the best of the material. When it is no longer profitable to do so, as at present, these persons fade out and all material is left to be collected by the local authority.

Of late, the price paid and the demand for the various grades of paper have fluctuated quite considerably with the result that very large amounts have been put out for collection. This puts a strain on the staff and on storage facilities, and quite large quantities have had to be disposed of in the tip.

It is to be hoped that prices will improve and that the collection of this material will again be worthwhile.

207 tons of paper, rags and metal valued at £1,270. were sold during the year. The cost of sorting and baling, excluding overheads, was £832.

RODENT CONTROL:

Quite apart from the enormous damage they do to property and food, rodents are vectors of disease and their destruction is therefore an essential public health service. In the old days it was customary to hold an annual "Rat Week" and destroy as many as possible in that period. Other than occasional trapping or poisoning here and there, these pests were more or less free to roam unmolested for the rest of the year with a consequent enormous increase in numbers.

The battle against rats and mice is now a daily one, and local authorities are responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

I would not say that the rat population in your area is high. On the other hand, there is no doubt that any easing in the campaign being waged against this pest would result in a very large increase in their numbers. The present reasonably satisfactory position is due to the efforts of Mr. Cox, your Rodent Operator, and to the co-operation of the public who notify the department of any infestation of which they become aware.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries again asked that 10 per cent of sewer manholes should be test baited. Test baits were laid in 134 manholes: 11 were found to be infested.

Quarterly and Annual Returns are submitted to the Ministry. The year's work is summarised hereunder:-

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of premises inspected | 763 |
| Number of premises infested | 374 |
| Number of dwellings treated | 332 |
| Number of business premises treated | 33 |
| Number of agricultural premises treated | 1 |
| Number of local authority premises treated | 2 |
| TOTAL number of visits | 2422 |
| Estimated number of rats and mice destroyed | 3157 |

FACTORIES:

The local authority is responsible for the administration of some sections of the Factories Act. These sections relate to cleanliness, overcrowding, ventilation, etc., of factories in which there is no mechanical power, and to the provision and maintenance of sanitary accommodation in all factories, whether or not mechanical power is used.

These duties are carried out by your Public Health Inspectors who are also responsible for the conditions under which "Outwork" is done in the homes of persons who undertake this class of employment.

Generally speaking, factories and premises occupied by outworkers were well maintained.

Table 5 shows the number of factories in the area; the number of visits by your Inspectors and defects discovered and remedied.

SUMMARY:

The standard of housing in the borough is good.

Food hygiene is at a satisfactory level.

Rodent control is effective.

The system of refuse collection and disposal is satisfactory.

Atmospheric pollution presents no problem.

I wish to express my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council; to Dr. McNab and colleagues in other departments. My thanks also to the staff of my department for their loyalty and co-operation.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

"Stour Cottage",
Barrack Road,
Christchurch.
June, 1960.

T A B L E 1.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|---|------|
| Housing visits | 44 |
| Revisits | 409 |
| Housing overcrowding | 289 |
| Drainage visits | 1192 |
| Revisits | 1431 |
| Nuisances | 183 |
| Revisits | 290 |
| Unsound food | 99 |
| Revisits | 9 |
| Food premises | 520 |
| Revisits | 93 |
| Ice cream | 39 |
| Revisits | 52 |
| Dairies, cowsheds and milkshops | 88 |
| Revisits | 33 |
| Ice cream samples | 240 |
| Milk sampling | - |
| Infectious diseases | 5 |
| Revisits | 1 |
| Verminous premises | 19 |
| Revisits | 13 |
| Factories | 251 |
| Revisits | 35 |
| Outworkers | 15 |
| School Canteens | 38 |
| Public conveniences | 209 |
| Vans, tents, etc., | 50 |
| Camping sites | 153 |
| Revisits | 226 |
| Shops (Shops Act) | 395 |
| Offices | 3 |
| Hawkers | 28 |
| Defective refuse bins | 486 |
| Refuse collection and disposal | 591 |
| Salvage | 95 |
| Rodent control | 2422 |
| Closet accommodation | 21 |
| Pet Animals Act | 14 |
| Beaches | 16 |
| Unclassified | 136 |
| Rent Act | 37 |
| Rivers and streams | 8 |
| Water supply | 4 |
| Clean Air Act | 6 |
| Water samples | 15 |
| Places of entertainment inspected | 3 |

10,303

T A B L E 2.

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the Department.

(a) DRAINAGE:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Number of new buildings drained | 161 |
| Number of houses and premises redrained | 2 |
| Repairs or amendments to existing drains | 31 |
| Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed | 35 |
| Length in yards stoneware drains laid | 10612 |
| Manholes and covers provided | 1336 |
| Intercepting traps fixed | 45 |
| New gulley traps fixed | 579 |
| Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed | 197 |
| Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired | 3 |
| Water tests applied | 674 |
| Smoke tests applied | 134 |
| Cesspools abolished | 3 |
| Cesspools emptied | 14 |
| Septic tanks constructed | 3 |

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| New W.C. accommodation provided | 84 |
| New W.C. apartments provided | 93 |
| New W.C. pedestals provided | 101 |
| W.C.'s cleansed and repaired | 9 |
| New flushing cisterns provided | 97 |
| Flushing cisterns repaired | 6 |
| Baths provided | 77 |
| Sinks provided | 81 |
| Lavatory basins provided | 97 |
| Existing waste pipes trapped | 4 |

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:

| | |
|---|----|
| Roofs repaired | 17 |
| Eaves gutters renewed or repaired | 16 |
| Damp walls remedied | 52 |
| Yards repaired | 4 |
| Chimney stacks repaired | 5 |
| Walls repaired | 12 |
| Ceilings repaired / renewed | 20 |
| Walls replastered | 10 |
| Fireplaces repaired / renewed | 4 |
| Floors of rooms relaid | 1 |
| Floors of rooms repaired | 11 |
| New windows provided | 1 |

TABLE 2 (continued)

| | |
|--|-----|
| Windows repaired and/or made to open | 40 |
| Rooms cleansed and redecorated | 35 |
| Doors repaired or renewed | 12 |
| Ventilated food stores provided | 6 |
| Staircases provided or repaired | 5 |
| External paintwork | 2 |
| Handrails provided | 3 |
| Dustbins provided | 207 |
| Nuisances - Smoke | 2 |
| Nuisances - Animals | 2 |
| Nuisances - Accumulation of manure or refuse | 9 |
| Workrooms cleansed and repaired | - |
| Rooms disinfected | 5 |
| Premises disinfested | 12 |
| Bakehouses cleansed | 1 |

TABLE 3.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

During the year 651 complaints were received as detailed below:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Rats and Mice | 255 |
| Food | 84 |
| Defective dustbins or absence of | 222 |
| Smells | 13 |
| Choked drains or pipes | 12 |
| Defective W.C.'s | 8 |
| Defective roofs and gutters | 7 |
| Defective chimney stacks and chimney breasts | 2 |
| Cockroaches | 2 |
| Dilapidations | 2 |
| Fleas and bugs | 14 |
| Insects | 3 |
| Accumulation of refuse or rubbish | 3 |
| Defective windows | 2 |
| Defective staircase | 1 |
| Defective walls and ceilings | 1 |
| Defective soil and vent pipe | 1 |
| Nuisance from smoke | 3 |
| Nuisance from animals | 2 |
| Overflowing cesspool | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | 5 |
| Defective sinks | 2 |

651

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

Number of Notices Served

| NOTICES | OUTSTANDING 31.12.1958 | NUMBER SERVED | COMPLIED WITH | WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT | OUTSTANDING 31.12.1959 |
|-----------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Informal | 8 | 12 | 20 | - | 7 |
| Statutory | - | 3 | 3 | - | - |
| TOTAL: | 8 | 15 | 23 | - | - |

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 - 1
Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 - 2

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to
health (including inspections made by Public Health
Inspectors).

| PREMISES: | No. on Register | Number of | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| | | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted |
| (1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 6 | 15 | - | - |
| (2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 122 | 271 | - | - |
| (3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 128 | 286 | - | - |

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| PARTICULARS | No. of cases in which defects were found .. | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted: |
|---|---|----------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred: | | |
| | | | To H. M. Inspector | By H. M. Inspector | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1.) | 3 | 3 | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2.) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 17 | 12 | - | - | - |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | 23 | 18 | - | - | - |

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

| NATURE OF WORK | Section 110 | | | | Section 111 | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
| | No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1) (C) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Wearing apparel (making, etc.,) | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Curtains and furniture hangings | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |